

APPLICANT(S): HERSHKOVITS, Yehuda et al.

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New claim 35 has been added in order to further define what the Applicant considers to be the invention. Applicant respectfully asserts that no new matter has been added.

Claims 29 and to 31 to 33 have been voluntarily amended for clarification only. This amendment does not narrow the scope of the claims, nor are they being made for reasons of patentability. The amended claims are not subject to the complete bar against the use of the Doctrine of Equivalents as outlined in *Festo Corporation v. Shoketsu Kinsoku Kogyo Kapushiki Co., Ltd. a/ka/ SMC Corporation and SMt Pneumatics, Inc.*, as the amendment do not narrow the scope of the claims, nor are they being made for reasons of patentability.

Applicants respectfully assert that the amendments to the claims add no new matter.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 29-34 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as being anticipated by Wachel (US Patent 6,795,933). In light of the cancellation of claim 30, the rejection with respect of claim 30 is moot. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection with respect to claims 29 and 31 to 34.

Amended claim 29 recites, *inter alia*:

"A method of transferring telecommunication transmissions comprising: Using a PCI bus connector to establish a connection between a first rear I/O card and a second front card or second rear card, upon receiving a failure indication associated with a first front card connected via a through connection to said first rear card."

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Amended claims 31 to 33 also include either the "second rear card" of claim 29, or an equivalent wording; i.e., a backup rear card.

The second, or backup, rear card is supported by the specification, as it reads:

"This connectivity can be used to reroute telephony signals from an active rear card, for example, rear card 111a, to standby or redundant rear (of front) card 111(n+1) (or 110(n+1))." (in the specification, page 7).

Wachel does not teach or suggest, and the Examiner does not suggest that **Wachel** teaches or suggests, establishing a connection between a first rear I/O card and a front card or second (i.e., redundant) rear card (or a backup rear card) as recited in amended independent claims 29 and 31 to 33. For a reference to anticipate a claim, the reference must teach all elements of a claim. Therefore, **Wachel** cannot anticipate claims **29 and 31-33**, as amended.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that amended independent claims **29 and 31 to 33** are allowable. Claim 34 depends from claim 33, and therefore include all the limitations of those claims. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 33 is likewise allowable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections to amended independent claims **29 and 31 to 33** and to claim 34 dependent thereon.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 29 and 30 to 34.

Applicants note that none of the amendments to the claims herein are in response to the above discussed prior art rejections.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the pending claims are considered by Applicants to be allowable. Their favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

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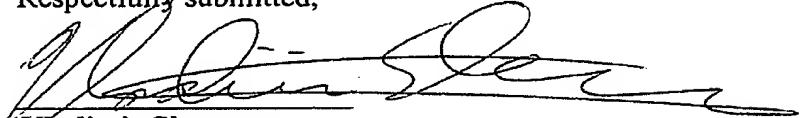
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Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form, content or entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

Respectfully submitted,



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